

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Foreign Priority Claim

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether or not the drawings have been accepted. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 7-10 and 17-20 and has made the Restriction Requirement final. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 remain pending. Independent claims 1 and 11 are believed to be generic. Assuming independent claims 1 and 11 are found to be allowable, all claims depending therefrom should also be in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunya et al. (U.S. 6,752,711) in view of Sheikh-Bahaie (U.S. 6,805,000).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1 and 11 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a mounting structure of a tire sensing system including *inter alia*

wherein a central part of an outer surface of the air pressure sensor is exposed and faces radially outward toward an interior of the tire, and

wherein a central part of an inner surface of the air pressure sensor is separated by a space from the wheel in a radially inward direction.

Support for the novel features of independent claims 1 and 11 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 2-4 (Species A), FIGS. 7 and 8 (Species B), FIGS. 9(a) and 9(b) (Species C), and FIGS. 10 (Species D).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bunya et al. and Sheikh-Bahaie.

In contrast to the present invention, Bunya et al. (*see* FIGS. 2 and 3, for example) merely disclose a sensor 41 directly mounted to the rim via a nut 57 at the center of the sensor 41. Thus, Bunya et al. fail to teach a central part of an inner surface of the air pressure sensor is separated by a space from the wheel in a radially inward direction, as presently claimed.

In addition in contrast to the present invention, Sheikh-Bahaie (*see* FIGS. 1-11, for example) merely discloses sensor 10 pressing directly against the wheel rim 12 or the strap 102 surrounding the wheel rim. Thus Sheikh-Bahaie fails to teach a central part of an inner surface of the air pressure sensor is separated by a space from the wheel in a radially inward direction, as presently claimed.

Further, previously cited references Delaporte et al. and Sanchez et al. fail to make for the deficiencies of Bunya et al. and Sheikh-Bahaie.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bunya et al., Sheikh-Bahaie, Sanchez et al., and Delaporte et al.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Further, as discussed above, independent claims 1 and 11 are believed to be generic.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 6 and 16 have been amended to set forth additional novel features of the present invention, as well as to place them in better form.

Accordingly, all dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 of the present application are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for


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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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